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COMMUNIQUE ON NFL DELEGATION'S VISIT TO NORTH VIET NAM

At the invitation of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Fatherland Front, a delegation of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation led by Dr. Phung Van Cung, Vice-President of the Presidential of the Central Committee of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation paid a visit to North Viet Nam from February 28, 1969 to March 20, 1969.

During its stay, the delegation of the South Viet Nam NFL was warmly received by President Ho Chi Minh; Vice-President Ton Duc Thang, President of the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Fatherland Front; Le Daba, First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Workers' Party; Truong Chinh, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National Assembly; and Pham Van Dong, Premier of the DRVN. President Ho Chi Minh gave a hearty welcome to the delegation at the Presidential Palace and called on it at the Government Guest House.

The delegation had cordial contacts with various political parties and mass organizations, representatives of various nationalities, religions, workers, peasants, intellectuals, artists, journalists, aged people, young pioneers and children, and associations of southern fellow-provincials. The delegation visited the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Fatherland Front, the Ministry of National Defence, the Hanoi Administrative Committee and many other offices, many factories,

construction sites, agricultural co-operatives, army units, and schools (especially schools reserved for students native of South Viet Nam). The delegation also toured Hanoi capital, Haiphong port-city, the Viet Bac Autonomous Region, Quang Ninh, Nam Ha, Ninh Binh, Thanh Hoa, Nghe An (particularly Nam Lien village, native place of President Ho Chi Minh) and Quang Binh provinces and Vinh Linh area adjacent to the heroic great front. In all the places the delegation visited and all over North Viet Nam, the people expressed

the warmest fraternal affection for the delegation.

The delegation of the South Viet Nam NFL held talks with the delegation of the DRVN Government headed by Premier Pham Van Dong and with the delegation of the Viet Nam Fatherland Front headed by Hoang Quoc Viet, member of the Presidential of the VNFF Central Committee and President of the Viet Nam Federation of Trade Unions. In an atmosphere full of kindred affection the two sides informed each other of the fighting and production of the people and

fighters in both zones, and achieved complete identity of views on the assessment of the situation and the tasks of the entire people in the present stage of the fight against U.S. aggression, for national salvation.

History has proved that in all respects Viet Nam is one, the Vietnamese nation is one. Over the past 15 years, the U.S. imperialists have sabotaged the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam, hindered

the reunification of Viet Nam, created in South Viet Nam what they call the "Republic of Viet Nam" and a puppet administration as an instrument. Their scheme is to turn South Viet Nam into an American military base and new-type colony and prolong the partition of our country.

But the South Vietnamese people have been at the cost of innumerable sacrifices and despite countless hardships, waging a relentless and extraordinarily courageous struggle, and have foiled all

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Thua Thien province Liberation fighters open fire on the enemy

HEAVY U.S.-PUPPET LOSSES in Western Highlands, in Coastal Provinces Northeast of Saigon and on Saigon Front

- * U.S. 4th Infantry Division Rear Base near Kontum Razed
- * 90 Million Litres of Petrol Burnt in Quy Nhon
- * Battle Count of Operation Dewey Canyon West of Hue: 2,900 GI and puppet casualties
- * Over 1,000 Enemy Troops Wiped Out and Puppet Naval HQ Pounded around Saigon
- * At Least 40 Enemy Bases, Airfields or Positions Attacked Daily in the Past Week

NFL Central Committee Spokesman's Statement on U.S.-Puppet "Private Talks" Bid

(Released by Gai Phong Press Agency on March 27)

U.S. President Nixon said on March 27, 1964 that "private talks" were needed to peacefully settle the Viet Nam issue. Meanwhile, Saigon, Nguyen Van Thieu also declared that he was ready to enter into "private talks" with the South Viet Nam N.F.L.

In this connection the spokesman of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation Central Committee declares the following:

1. Under the impact of its heavy failures in the war of aggression in Viet Nam and confronted with the strong opposition of public opinion in the world and of U.S. progressive opinion, the U.S. had to stop unconditionally the bombing and shelling of the entire territory of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, and to sit down at the quadripartite conference in Paris for a political settlement of the Viet Nam question. Since February this year, U.S. satellite and puppet troops have been repeatedly attacked by the South Vietnamese people and their armed forces everywhere on the South Viet Nam battlefield, and have been suffering increasingly heavy losses. Yet, the U.S. remains very stubborn.

The U.S. is stepping up to a very high level of violence bombing raids and "accelerated" pacification operations against South Vietnamese villages and towns thus piling up abominable crimes against the South Vietnamese people. It has even sent U.S. Marines deep into the territory of Laos, and is threatening to extend hostilities to the Kingdom of Cambodia.

The U.S. is sparing no effort to maintain and bolster up the Thieu-Ky-Huong puppet administration, using it to ruthlessly put down the Buddhist movement, and to crack down on the Thieu-Ky-Huong clique and the setting up of a peace cabinet willing to negotiate with the N.F.L. is a settlement of the South Viet Nam issue.

Although, the U.S. final defeat is left in no doubt, it is trying to cling to South Viet Nam and maintain the Thieu-Ky-Huong puppet administration, in the hope of carrying through its neo-colonialist policy in South Viet Nam, and prolonging the partition of Viet Nam. It is with this scheme in mind that so far the representatives of the U.S. and the puppet administration at all the nine plenary sessions of the conference in Paris have evaded discussion of the key problem, which is the complete and unconditional withdrawal of U.S. and satellite troops from South Viet Nam. And this has been the reason why the Paris Conference

has made no progress at all.

2. President Nixon says "private talks" are "the only way" to settle the Viet Nam issue. Though his administration claims it wants an end to the war, it cannot bring itself to withdraw unconditionally all the aggressive armies of the U.S. and its satellites from South Viet Nam. It also asserts that it respects the South Vietnamese people's right to self-determination, while in fact it is sticking to the Thieu-Ky-Huong clique whose replacement has been eagerly demanded by the South Vietnamese people. It speaks of its "desire for peace", but in fact it is trying to create a "position of strength" for the Saigon puppet administration to secure "permanent control" over South Viet Nam. Though repeatedly attacking the P.L.A.F. right in its name, Nguyen Van Thieu's puppet administration keeps claiming for the "disagreement" of the N.F.L. The point is not to talk this way or that way, but whether or not the Nixon administration wants to put an end to its aggression against Viet Nam, whether or not it will withdraw unconditionally all U.S. and satellite troops from South Viet Nam.

The U.S.-puppets' proposal for "private talks" between the Saigon puppet administration and the N.F.L. is but a cunning move to camouflage the belligerent and abhorrent attitude of the U.S. and to hoodwink the world's peoples and progressives in the United States now insisting on an early end to the war of aggression in Viet Nam by the Nixon Administration.

The South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation strongly opposes the U.S. and the public at home and abroad the belligerent attitude and deceitful maneuver of the Nixon administration. Again, it reaffirms that the Thieu-Ky-Huong administration is nothing but a gang of traitors and enemies of the people, who serves as an instrument for aggression of the U.S. imperialists and do not represent any one. The N.F.L. firmly believes that the people and justice will triumph and the U.S. progressives will sternly condemn the U.S.-puppets' steps for the war and delaying the settlement of the Viet Nam issue.

3. The position of the Vietnamese people has been made clear in the five points of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation and the four points of the D.R.V.N. Government. It is the basis for a correct solution to the Viet Nam question, because it is consonant with the basic

PARIS CONFERENCE ON VIET NAM HOLDS 10th plenary session

A sketchy balance-sheet of the past nine sessions of the Paris Conference was presented by the head of the D.R.V.N. government delegation, Mr. Xuan Thuy, at its 10th plenary session, on March 27. Though it has been going on for more than two months, he said, the Conference has settled no problem. On the one hand the Americans have been ceaselessly intensifying their aggressive war and on the other they have put forward proposals which betray U.S. intention to perpetuate U.S. neo-colonialism in South Viet Nam. The one on "mutual withdrawal of troops", in particular, simply puts on the same footing U.S. imperialism the aggressor and the Vietnamese people who resist U.S. aggression. More recently President Nixon and other responsible officials at the United States asserted that the Paris conference

principles of the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam, the reality in Viet Nam at present, and the interests and aspirations of the American people and of the peace-loving peoples in the world. It is in line with good faith that the NFL delegation has come to Paris to help, together with the other parties, the conference achieve positive results. If the Nixon administration keeps hanging on to South Viet Nam and the Thieu-Ky-Huong clique, if it does not want to withdraw unconditionally all U.S. and satellite troops from South Viet Nam, and if it does not truly respect the basic national rights of the Vietnamese people and the South Vietnamese people's right to self-determination, no talks in any form can lead to a settlement of the Viet Nam issue. The U.S. must bear full responsibility for all the consequences arising from its obstructing the Paris Conference on Viet Nam.

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Hanoi press opinion

LAIRD'S REPORT BETRAYS U.S. INTENT

On his return from South Viet Nam, U.S. Defense Secretary Melvin Laird submitted on March 19 a report to the U.S. Senate Armed Forces Committee. He took a dim view of U.S. and puppet capability of coping with the sweeping attacks by the South Viet Nam patriotic forces and people. Such an opinion was no surprise, since U.S.-puppet declining fighting power had long been transparent. What angered public opinion was Laird's suggestions which revealed the U.S. government's intention to continue the war.

His statement that for the U.S. "the basic problem remains that of achieving permanent South Vietnamese governmental control over the country" laid bare the Nixon administration's scheme to cling to the Saigon puppets so as to achieve neo-colonialism in South Viet Nam and perpetuate the partition of Viet Nam.

However, Laird himself could not ignore the bitter fact that the "South Viet Nam government" was falling apart, was rotten to the core and could not stand on its own feet without the protection of more than half a million U.S. expeditionary troops in South Viet Nam. For that reason, though

aware that American public opinion was demanding an early withdrawal of U.S. troops from South Viet Nam, Laird said that he was not "talking about the withdrawal of American troops at the present time" and that "it may be difficult to carry out U.S. force reduction until South Vietnamese forces are capable of replacing the U.S. troops, or to reduce or withdraw". Then he proposed a "program" for modernization of the puppet army into one capable of "suppressing insurgency".

This is in a nutshell US design has been made all the more evident by the acts of war undertaken by the US in South Viet Nam and the craftiness of its delegates at the Paris Conference on Viet Nam.

The US refusal to end its aggressive war in Viet Nam has touched off a new and wide protest movement throughout the world and even among political circles in the U.S. "There is growing impatience with the continuing loss of American lives and the seeming frustration of our hopes for the reduction of the American commitment," Senator Edward Kennedy said on March 26. Republican Congressman Paul Findley stated on the same day, "The United States makes a fundamental mistake in committing troops... The rational corrective action is to withdraw rather than to continue to compound the original error." The New York Times reported that Laird's testimony "is a disappointment to all who had hoped for a bold Nixon administration to advance the Paris peace talks".

Xuan Thuy (The People)
March 23, 1964

THE NORTH—GREAT REAR BASE OF THE SOUTH

RIGHT at the beginning of the anti-U.S. Revolution for national salvation, educational work as a whole in North Viet Nam was given a new orientation suitable to the new situation and a long-term objective, namely, the training of cadres of the great revolutionary war.

In general, education in the 1957-1958 school year, the number of schools increased by 21 per cent and enrolments from infant classes to senior secondary classes by 50 per cent compared with 1957-1958, the school year marking U.S. war escalation in the North. Today, in North Viet Nam, each village has its own primary school, 4 out of every 5 villages boast their own secondary school and each district at least one secondary school, some even 3. Tens of thousands of complementary classes functioning in different ways by day or by night with pupils attending on a full-time or part-work basis.

In order to create favourable conditions for a rapid and balanced development of education, the Viet Nam Workers' Party and the D.R.V.N. Government have issued directives and taken important measures. In the past year, the Government Council decided to put on the government payroll all elementary school teachers. The status for government employees was also granted to all primary school teachers until then not paid by the state. Recently, the Government Council began granting scholarships to all students and pupils of higher education and vocational technical schools.

OVER the past 4 years, cultural, literary and artistic activities as a whole have been directed towards propaganda for the line and directives of resistance to U.S. aggression for national salvation and for keep-up of wartime socially. Writers and artists throughout the North have resolutely concentrated their activities on the grass-roots, getting into first-hand experiences of the fighting, production and the people's life. With courage, initiative, creativeness and dedication to the Revolution they have maintained and raised the standards of the new culture despite the war. The cultural mass movement

amidst of the war, higher and vocational educational has been developing and has become a comprehensive system of training of cadres consisting of many different branches: fundamental sciences, science and technology, economic management, pedagogy, literature and arts. The training of cadres above university level has been carried out at an increasing tempo year after year through a double channel: the sending of probationers abroad and the schooling at home.

Under the "school must be linked closely with society" and "study must go along with practice" mottoes, universities, colleges and vocational schools, by sending students and pupils to practical training, have not only raised and consolidated the quality of studies but also contributed positively to the solution of scientific and technical problems posed by production and the fighting.

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A U.S. pilotless plane was downed on March 28 over Hai Phong. Total number of U.S. aircraft lost in North Viet Nam since August 5, 1964

3,273

DRVN WAR ACHIEVEMENTS IN EDUCATION, CULTURE AND HEALTH

In particular has been developing more vigorously and more stringently than before. With the "drawn bomb explosions with songs" slogan, mass singing not only is the feature of various performances but also reaches gun-emplacement, road and transport construction sites in the busiest hours, factories and ricefields. Everywhere in the cities as well as the countryside, plays and songs composed by the masses flourish. Annual festivals have been held in most provinces and cities, at which the best works created by the masses are produced.

Health organization at villages and co-ops has already been able to provide on the spot first aid to from 30 to 70 per cent of the wounded needing immediate attention.

100 per cent of the districts in the North possess a hospital, as against only 12.5

percent before the US war of destruction, and each hospital has a large surgical personnel and many medical workers capable of treating most of war wounds.

In the conditions of war, the health service has also obtained good results in scientific-technical research and has applied them to medical and pharmaceutical work.

In 1962 alone, researches on 914 of the 1,014 subjects were completed, many of them dealing with the treatment of shock, emergency resuscitation, treatment of wounds inflicted by napalm or phosphorus bombs, fractures, cases of tetanus and artery ruptures and new surgical techniques. Other works have focused on prophylaxis, prevention of epidemics (disposal of human waste, purification of drinking water, and eradication of intestinal worms), germ and chemical warfare, tuberculosis and treatment of social diseases such as malaria, B.B. trachoma etc.. Even in wartime conditions, there

is research work on long term and complex problems. Many basic concrete investigations on cancer, cardiovascular diseases and allergies or on the regimen of food, housing and rest of workers and cadres, workers and peasants, and the biological constants of the Vietnamese. Establishments for pharmaceutical research and production have succeeded in producing from local raw materials and pharmaceutical materials a number of drugs which can replace foreign varieties.

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Students of the Economy and Planning College (dispersed to the countryside) defending their graduation papers.

COMMUNIQUE ON NFL...

(Continued from page 1)

perfidious manoeuvres of the U.S. and puppets, especially since the birth of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation in 1969. After failing in their "special war", the U.S. imperialists have been committing with more than half a million U.S. expeditionary troops and with the help of satellite and puppet troops an aggression against South Viet Nam. In the course of this, they used air and naval forces to bombard the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, placing the Vietnamese people in a state of war in the whole country. This was an extremely blatant violation of the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam and all international law. The entire Vietnamese nation, millions as one man, has stood up with the determination to fight and defeat the U.S. imperialist aggressors. All the Vietnamese have the right to go anywhere they like to be found in their fatherland to fight him; it is their sacred right to self-defence. Since the U.S. has provoked a war and launched an aggression, it must end the war and stop the aggression. So long as there remains a foreign aggressor on our soil, our people must continue to fight and wipe him out.

The past 15 years have been 15 glorious years of fighting and also 15 years of extremely glorious victories of the heroic South Vietnamese people. Under the correct leadership of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, the South Vietnamese people have dealt telling blows at the U.S. and puppets especially in the high tide of general offensives and simultaneous uprisings started early in Spring last year, thus upsetting the strategic position of the enemy and driving them deeper and deeper into a defensive and passive position. The continual, widespread and ever stronger attacks launched by the South Viet Nam armed forces and people since February 21, 1969, prove that they have been turning to account the tremendous successes of the past year's general offensives and uprisings and that they are masters of the South Viet Nam battlefield.

The South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, which has absolute political supremacy, commands unity and all political forces, controls vast liberated areas, and is actually playing the role of a State with an ever firmer revolutionary administrative system and enjoys ever increasing prestige in the international arena. It is the genuine representative of the Vietnamese people. The birth of the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces headed by Lawyer Trinh Dinh Thau has marked a new extension of the front of great national unity against U.S. aggression, for national salvation.

Through their anti-U.S. resistance, for national salvation, the South Vietnamese people have not only frustrated all military

and political schemes of the U.S. imperialist aggressors and their lackeys in South Viet Nam, but also made a very important contribution to the defeating of the U.S. imperialists against the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and to the defence of socialist North Viet Nam.

With their ardent patriotism, they used air, naval, and land forces to bombard the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, placing the Vietnamese people in a state of war in the whole country. This was an extremely blatant violation of the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam and all international law. The entire Vietnamese nation, millions as one man, has stood up with the determination to fight and defeat the U.S. imperialist aggressors. All the Vietnamese have the right to go anywhere they like to be found in their fatherland to fight him; it is their sacred right to self-defence. Since the U.S. has provoked a war and launched an aggression, it must end the war and stop the aggression. So long as there remains a foreign aggressor on our soil, our people must continue to fight and wipe him out.

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"The South Viet Nam Armed Forces and People Will Live Up to President Ho Chi Minh's Praise"

(NFL President Nguyen Huu Tho's reply to President Ho Chi Minh's message congratulating the South Viet Nam armed forces and people on their early spring victories).

Esteemed President,

It is the Spring days of Ky Dau, as the South Viet Nam armed forces and people are keeping up their uprisings and simultaneous attacks on hundreds of U.S.-puppet targets: their major bases in cities and provincial capitals, their headquarters, airfields, ports, warehouses, logistic compounds, land routes and waterways, inflicting on the enemy severe losses in men-power and war materials, frustrating his pacification programme for the regroupment of the people, extending the liberated zone, foiling the U.S. "talk-peace, stop war and civilian massacres" scheme, and giving the lie to the U.S. puppet boast that "the VC have exhausted, out of breath and cowardly beaten", your messages commending their early spring successes filled all the Southern people, fighters and cadres with joy and enthusiasm.

Esteemed President,

Despite their serious setbacks and great difficulties, the U.S. imperialists remain very obdurate and are still sticking to their aggressive design and have not made up their mind to withdraw their troops from South Viet Nam. They are escalating instead their aggressive war to a very high level of ferocity and indulging in counter mass murder, terror and repression against our people in the countryside and cities. They are making desperate efforts to maintain the Thieu-Ky-Huong triumvirate, a gang of lie-hard, warlike and utterly corrupt puppets, ordering up troop contingents and strengthening the puppet army into a tool for the realisation of their neo-colonialism. They have even uttered threats and slanders against our people.

However, no amount of savagery and perfidy can save off U.S. ultimate disastrous failure and its puppets' total collapse.

The factory of victory working in their favour and united millions as one the South Viet Nam armed forces and people are resolved to constantly improve their offensive posture, firmly hold the initiative on the battlefield, strike in a still more devastating, punishing and shiffling manner, deliver more deadly blows, military and political, at U.S.-puppets, who new and more considerable and sweeping successes, advance towards complete victory, and achieve their goals, namely, independence, democracy, peace, neutrality, prosperity and ultimate peaceful reunification of the country.

The entire armed forces and people of South Viet Nam pledge themselves to live up to the praise of President Ho Chi Minh, beloved leader of the entire nation, and to the trust of all our fellow-countrymen and brothers and friends in all five continents.

The U.S. imperialist aggressors will certainly meet with dismal failure!

Our people will certainly carry the day!

We wish you good health and long life!

South Viet Nam, March 18, 1969.

For the CC of South Viet Nam NFL.

President of the Preamble:

Lawyer NGUYEN HUU THO

the complete and unconditional withdrawal of the U.S. and its satellite troops from South Viet Nam, and to drag out a military and political see-saw position, maintain and consolidate the puppet administration, clinging to the latter as a tool to achieve U.S. neo-colonialism in South Viet Nam and prolong the division of Viet Nam.

While preventing the Paris Conference from reaching a sensible political solution to the Viet Nam problem, the U.S. is pursuing its criminal aggressive war in Viet Nam. It is intensifying its extremely savage aerial attacks on South Viet Nam villages and towns, thus committing more crimes against the South Vietnamese people.

The Vietnamese people earnestly love peace. This must be a genuine peace associated with real independence and freedom. The Vietnamese people are determined to defend their independence and freedom, to resist the U.S. aggression, for national salvation.

encroached from the air upon the territory of the Kingdom of Cambodia and bombed people there.

U.S. war intensification and stubbornness again lay bare the hypocrisy of its protestations of "good will", and its professions of "respect" for peace and "respect" for the right to self-determination of the South Viet Nam. U.S. constitute also an insolent challenge to the progressive people of the United States and to the peace and justice-loving people in the world. If the U.S. ruling circles persist in prolonging and stepping up the war in Viet Nam, they will only invite upon themselves more serious failures. The only "honourable" way out for the U.S. is to stop its war of aggression, and let the South Vietnamese people settle their own affairs in accordance with the peaceful principles of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation.

So long as the U.S. pursues its aggression against Viet Nam, the key to the problem will go on fighting till there is not a single aggressor left on the Vietnamese soil.

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SINCE the night of Feb. 22, 1969, the armed forces and people of the heroic South have been mounting tremendously successful offensives on over 400 U.S. puppet positions in all theatres of operations.

Their successes are of particularly great military and political significance:

1 - Considerable losses in enemy's manpower and war material and serious U.S. casualties inflicted by the PLAF in a short time.

WITHIN only ten days beginning Feb. 22, 1969 the PLAF put out of action 45,000 enemy troops, shot down or destroyed on the ground 470 aircraft, wrecked 1,170 military vehicles and 200 artillery pieces, set afire over 100 fuel and ammunition storages, shelled 37 important airfields and 17 logistic areas.

The PLAF attacks however, have sent U.S. casualty figures soaring, and topped off in the United States a new wave of protest, which even draws in many Congressmen against the Nixon administration's attempt to prolong the war.

What the U.S. is trying to do is to keep its casualty list from lengthening. Its intention is to cut down the cost of the war, while placing the people and avoiding additional political and economic difficulties at home.

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GREAT SIGNIFICANCE OF PLAF'S FRESH SUCCESS

Excerpts from an article by Chien Thang in the March 22 1969 issue of Quan Doi Nhan Dan (The People's Army)

2 - U.S. "defence in depth" system rocked, and U.S. "clear-and-hold" strategy driven into serious crisis and deadlock by PLAF attacks.

The U.S. "clear-and-hold" strategy was put into operation in February last year to provide a stronger defence to various military bases and the big cities.

This plan, however, was upset right at the beginning, by the PLAF offensive, and it was not until recently that the U.S. could complete the re-deployment of its forces and the setting up of the various defence lines. Not long ago Abrams claimed that the U.S. was now in a position to check any attack by the Vietcong.

Yet, it has become a rule that the U.S. aggressors' big talk is almost immediately followed by destructive PLAF blows.

The magnitude and widespread character of the current attacks by the PLAF, despite U.S. "preparations" and preventive measures was much of a surprise. Yet, what surprised the U.S. most was the PLAF's ability to keep up their series of attacks and their high combat efficiency.

With the South Viet Nam NFL, the "glorious national mission of fighting U.S. aggression to save the country" was made of a surety. The visit to North Viet Nam of the delegation of the South Viet Nam NFL, which ended in splendid success and in an atmosphere permeated with the most affectionate brotherhood between the North and the South, is vigorously inspiring the armed forces and people in both parts of the country to push up further their sacred war of resistance against U.S. aggression, for national salvation, and bring to fruition the sacred cause of liberating the South, defending the North and ultimately achieving peaceful national reunification.

The U.S. "clear-and-hold" strategy has gone bankrupt because it is at variance with this universal law in war: let us say to defend oneself is to wipe out the adversary.

PLAF blows have further weakened the U.S.-puppets not only in terms of their strength but also of their strategic position. With its forces dwindling fast and its strategic plans foiled one after another, the U.S.-puppet aggressors, though numerous still, are losing more and more of its strategic effectiveness while on the defensive. The U.S. puppets, in fact, are getting bogged deeper and deeper in their weak and losing position. They can never get back on their feet again.

3 - PLAF assaults or another telling blow at aggressive design.

The great waves of general offensives beginning early in 1968 violently shook the aggressive design of the U.S. imperialists. As a result, the Johnson administration was forced to reconsider the entire U.S. Viet Nam policy, and take very important military and political backing down moves.

Yet, stubborn at heart, the U.S. aggressors only back down step by step and while keeping a sharp eye on the smallest change on the battlefield, they have tried to create a position of strength on the battlefield so as to speak from a position of strength at the conference table in Paris.

Now in power, Nixon is faced with the undesirable legacy bequeathed him by Johnson: a legacy of bitter bankruptcy and mounting difficulties. Yet, he too, is trying to prolong the U.S. Viet Nam war.

Nixon thought that as a newly elected president one could have some time to examine the situation and this would do no harm to the United States, either militarily, politically or diplomatically. He moreover hoped that time would work in his favour, would help him create the U.S. strength on the battlefield and consolidate the puppet administration and army as an instrument of U.S. neo-colonialism. A new comer to the White House, Nixon was deluded by "optimistic realism" from his representatives in Saigon. He believed that the "silence" kept by US opinion was a support for him. However, the early Spring offensives launched by South Viet Nam armed forces and people upset all his calculations and confronted him with harsh facts.

The splendid achievements of the PLAF have served as a warning to the U.S. aggressors with another stern warning: The war-masters should face the following facts in Viet Nam:

- The more they prolong their aggression, the higher US casualties will be.

- The more they seek a position of strength, the deeper they will sink in their position of weakness, whereas the revolutionary forces in South Viet Nam day by day gain in determination, strength and military art, and are entirely able to keep up their offensives indefinitely.

- The attempt to "de-Americanize" the war by beefing up the puppet army is but a "crazy" one, as the Sunday Times has put it.



An image of people's war in the Western High Plateau

The delegation of the South Viet Nam NFL solemnly assured President Ho Chi Minh - esteemed leader of the whole nation - the National Assembly, the Government of the DRVN, and all the beloved Northern compatriots that South Viet Nam in all circumstances would remain unshakably resolved to accomplish to the fullest extent their sacred obligation, namely to drive out the U.S. aggressors, liberate the South, defend the North and advance toward the peaceful reunification of the country, and in the immediate future, to keep up their continuous attacks and uprisings, to thwart the aggressive will of the U.S. imperialists, to overthrow the Thieu-Ky-Huong puppet clique and to obtain still greater victories.

The DRVN Government and the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Fatherland Front once again reaffirmed to their Southern fellow countrymen the determination of all Northern kith-and-kin to back a solid and strong North Viet Nam, stand ready to foil all new adventurist military schemes and acts of the U.S. and its lackeys against the North, do their best to fulfil their sacred tasks as the great rear base towards the great front.

On this occasion, President Ho Chi Minh wholeheartedly commended, and expressed his boundless affection for the people and fighters of the South. He particularly praised the splendid feats of the South Vietnamese armed forces and people early this Spring.

President Ho Chi Minh, Vice-President Ton Duc Thang, the National Assembly and the Government of the DRVN and the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Fatherland Front have requested the NFL delegation to convey their cordial greetings to Lawyer Nguyen Huu Tho, and the members of the NFL Central Committee, to Lawyer Trinh Dinh Thau and the members of the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces, and to the other patriotic forces who have shouldered, together

ERRATA
In the last issue of Viet Nam Courier, page 5, column 2, the last paragraph should read:

On March 9 and 10, American guns based South of the DMZ lobbed shells on Vinh Xa village, Vinh Linh area, and U.S. aircraft bombed Vinh Ninh village, Quang Ninh district, Quang Binh province.

VIET NAM AND THE WORLD

"The Korean People Will Continue the Struggle Shoulder to Shoulder With the Vietnamese People"

(Premier Kim Il Sung's congratulatory message)

KIM IL SUNG, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and Premier of the Cabinet of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, recently sent a message to President Ho Chi Minh on the occasion of the 19th "Day of National Resistance of the Vietnamese People Against the American Imperialists" (March 10).

The message said: "Under the clear-sighted leadership of the Viet Nam Workers' Party headed by you, the Vietnamese people have been carrying on a protracted, arduous struggle for the complete independence of the Fatherland and national liberation, have repelled repeated aggression by foreign imperialists, and are today fighting valiantly against the U.S. imperialist aggressors."

"The heroic Vietnamese people continue inflicting great military and political defeats upon the U.S. imperialist aggressors and driving them into a hopeless fog."

Recently, the South Vietnamese People's Liberation Armed Forces again launched widespread offensives throughout the front and are striking further hammer blows at the U.S. imperialist aggressors and their stooges.

"The brilliant successes scored by the Vietnamese people in the national liberation struggle against U.S. imperialism meet great admiration in the revolutionary people throughout the world."

"Informed by the recent defeat of the South Vietnamese People's Liberation Armed Forces and people, the U.S. imperialist aggressors again revealed their aggressive nature, by threatening to resume the bombing of North Viet Nam."

"The Government of the DPRK of Korea and the entire Korean people sternly condemn U.S. aggression and intensification and expansion of the war of aggression in Viet Nam as an intolerable challenge to the Vietnamese people and the world peace-loving people."

"Today the Vietnamese people are girding up with an unshakable fighting spirit to struggle to a finish against the aggressors until a single U.S. imperialist aggressor is left on the Vietnamese soil. This is their legitimate and inalienable right."

"The more desperate the U.S. imperialists become in their attempt to widen their war of aggression in Viet Nam, the more lamentable will be their defeat."

"The Government of the DPRK of Korea and the Korean people firmly insist that the U.S. imperialists stop for good all their acts of aggression against Vietnam, stop infringing upon the security and jeopardizing the security of the DRVN and get out of South Viet Nam unconditionally and completely, de-

king along with them their aggressive troops and those of their satellite countries."

"The Government of the DPRK of Korea supports in their entirety the four points of the Vietnamese question of the DRVN and the Political Programme of the South Viet Nam NLF, for the settlement of the Vietnamese question must be solved by the Vietnamese people themselves without any interference from outside."

"The Government of the DPRK of Korea supports the legitimate positions of the representative of the DRVN and the representative of the NLF at the Paris Conference on Viet Nam and strongly denounces the sinister manoeuvres of the U.S. imperialist aggressors to justify their war of aggression in Viet Nam."

"I firmly believe that the fraternal Vietnamese people will surely win final victory in the sacred war of resistance against the U.S. imperialists and for national salvation which they are waging to defend the North, liberate the South and achieve the reunification of the country."

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Viet Nam and perpetuate their occupation of South Viet Nam."

"The Korean people are actively supporting and encouraging the Vietnamese people in their just struggle against the U.S. imperialist aggressors."

"In the future, too, our people will continue to struggle shoulder to shoulder with the Vietnamese people to the end and strengthen their unity with them, in the common anti-U.S. struggle."

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No Amount of Slander Can Obscure US-Puppets' Crimes in Laos

SINCE early this year Prince Souvanna Phouma has, in his speeches or in the U.S. and its stooges and other Western papers, repeatedly slandered the DRVN. On March 19, the Vietnamese authorities made public their letter to the Co-Chairmen of the 1962 Geneva Conference on Laos charging the DRVN with "violating the Geneva Agreements", "interfering in Laos", "introducing troops into Laos" etc.

Calumny and provocation has been a customary trick of the U.S. and its stooges in Laos in many years past. Strangely enough, it is resorted to whenever the U.S. intensifies its intervention and aggression against Laos

and its puppet army takes a severe beating on the battlefields. This time the campaign of slanders and provocations was launched at a time when the U.S. was blatantly pursuing its aggressive policy, stepping up its "special war", intensifying the bombing and shelling of the liberated areas under the control of the Laotian Patriotic Front and patriotic neutralist forces.

In an interview with a UPI correspondent on February 12, Souvanna Phouma admitted that U.S. aircraft had been bombing Laos. AP reported on March 9 that many U.S. Marine companies had entered Laos' territory along the Laotian-Vietnamese border, near A Shau valley, Thua Thien province. This was confirmed by U.S. Defence Secretary Melvin R. Laird in Saigon on March 10.

Along with multiplying bombings and shelling in Laos, ground operations of U.S. troops there evidenced the Nixon administration's continued intervention and aggression in complete disregard of Laos' sovereignty, independence and neutrality and in serious violation of the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Laos.

As rightly pointed out by the statement released on March 22 by the Spokesman of the DRVN Foreign Ministry, the Vietnamese collective slanders against the DRVN cannot obscure the fact that U.S. and satellite troops are operating in Laos and that the U.S. is pushing up its savage bombings and shelling there. Neither can these slanders divert public opinion from their recent attempts to interfere with the normal activities of the DRVN Embassy in Vietnam, and illegal arrest and detention of Vietnamese residents in Laos.

In Laos as in Viet Nam, the U.S. and its lackeys have been trying to make black white but their slanderous allegations have been disposed of by reality. The origin of the serious situation in Laos lies in the intervention and aggression by the U.S. imperialists. They are the ones to be blamed for the innumerable crimes they have perpetrated in Laos.

Prince Souvanna Phouma, he cannot escape his share of responsibility nor the Vietnamese authorities theirs, for U.S. crimes against the Laotian people.

The Vietnamese people fully support the righteous position and the very legitimate demands of the Royal Government of Cambodia as expounded in its March 19, 1969 statement.

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SAIGON: New Protests Against Arraignment of Buddhist Dignitary

MANY Saigon circles, especially Buddhist, have been continuing their protests against the illegal sentences passed by the Thieu-Ky-Hung clique on Buddhist Superior Thich Thin Minh and a number of students, reports from Saigon said.

According to a Western news agency, on March 23 Buddhist believers gathered again at An Quang Pagoda and staged a prayer for Thich Thin Minh, after which they heard petitions by Buddhist youth organizations from Saigon, Hue and Nha Trang, and the Buddhist Institute, demanding the bombing and shelling of the puppet administration immediately set free Thich Thin Minh, return its headquarters to the Buddhist Association and cease all acts of terror against, and all attempts at dividing, Buddhist circles.

The same news agency reported that a senator from the (puppet) National Assembly in an interview with a Saigon paper correspondent declared that the verdict against the Buddhist Superior unwisely widened the chasm between the Buddhists and the U.S. stooges.

The Nixon administration's tricks to cover up its war intensification, to stem the free-running popular feeling in the U.S. and the world to forestall any likely headway of the Paris Conference and shirk the fundamental issue which is the cessation of the U.S. war of aggression, U.S.-inspired proposal for "privity" talks, advanced by its puppets at a time when they still make fools of themselves, strike the NFL and are confronted with popular clamour for their removal, sheds a glare on U.S. obduracy and hypocrisy.

The NFL chief negotiator in South Viet Nam and rejected its claim that it was only maintaining its war efforts at "the level of 1968". As to the South Vietnamese people, they are entitled to use any plan to resist aggression to the bitter end.

The NFL representative, on the strength of a recent statement by the U.S. Defence Secretary, denounced the Nixon Administration's intent to cling to the puppet administration and army and to withdraw U.S. troops only after the puppets were in a position to quote the South Viet Nam popular movement.

Both Mr. Tran Bau Kiern and Mr. Xuan Thuy declared that any sound political solution to the Viet Nam problem must be based on the DRVN four points and the NFL five points and the key to it is the total and unconditional withdrawal of U.S. and satellite troops from South Viet Nam.

That the Paris Conference has made no progress is vividly illustrated in the very 10th session by the statements of the Saigon and Washington delegates. Indeed they only repeated the last-minute "mutual with-

drawal of troops", "restoration of the DMZ", "legality and partition" of the traitors on U.S. payroll, and "aggression of South Viet Nam by the North Vietnamese force", and so on and so forth. What was most ludicrous is that the poor puppet representative told the audience of the myth of "Communist infiltration into Laotian and Cambodian territories" right at a moment when U.S. rulers themselves admitted that American troops had been sent to Laos and were preparing public opinion for a big military action against Cambodia following innumerable violations of her territory by U.S. puppet troops.

It was repeated at the Paris conference by Coble Lodge. Of course, Pham Dang Lam echoed his master's message.

But at the 8th and 9th sessions, both master and servant made no more mention of their threat, which did not fail to be noticed by newsmen who asked the American spokesman, "Why didn't Mr. Coble Lodge restate the warning he had given? And what about the 'appropriate response' he promised?"

"We'll continue to follow closely the development of the situation", replied the spokesman evasively.

Further U.S. Puppet Crimes in South Viet Nam

BASE REVENGES IN MEKONG DELTA

THE U.S. aggressors and their henchmen recently committed many bloody crimes against civilians in retaliation for the bitter reverses they had suffered on the battlefield, GFA reported.

At 10 p.m. February 25, a group of GIs broke into Khau Bang hamlet, Thanh Phu district, Ben Tre province, and rounded up 5 women and 11 children. They lined up the captives and cut them down with sub-machinegun fire and grenades. The oldest of the children, Vo Van Hai, was 13 and the youngest, Pham Van Tuan, just 3.

Also on Feb. 25, after bombing and strafing Luang Hua and Thuan Dieu villages, the U.S. aggressors sent to Dakotas to spray toxic chemicals in high doses on many neighbouring villages, poisoning many people and ruining hundreds of hectares of crops.

In My Tho, on Feb. 17, U.S. helicopters strafed and rocketed people working on the fields in Hai My village. The oldest of the children, Vo Van Hai, was 13 and the youngest, Pham Van Tuan, just 3.

Then the GIs went to Mr. Giac's house and killed all five members of that family. Mr. Giac himself, 70, had his throat cut open. His wife, 67, was also disembowelled.

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Then the GIs went to Mr. Giac's house and killed all five members of that family. Mr. Giac himself, 70, had his throat cut open. His wife, 67, was also disembowelled.

Also on Feb. 25, after bombing and strafing Luang Hua and Thuan Dieu villages, the U.S. aggressors sent to Dakotas to spray toxic chemicals in high doses on many neighbouring villages, poisoning many people and ruining hundreds of hectares of crops.

In My Tho, on Feb. 17, U.S. helicopters strafed and rocketed people working on the fields in Hai My village. The oldest of the children, Vo Van Hai, was 13 and the youngest, Pham Van Tuan, just 3.

the U.S. puppets had burnt with flame-throwers 120 hectares of ripening rice fields in the area.

In Can Tho U.S. armed helicopters on Feb. 20 attacked a Catholic area in Phung Hiep village, burning down the church, killing 13 people, and wounding 15 others, mostly women and children.

In Tay Ninh, on March 4, 5 and 9, B-52 aircraft made 30 sorties against Ta Pang village, causing heavy losses to the local people. During a raid in Le Co area on March 28, U.S. soldiers used gas grenades against the people, injuring many of them.

In reply to these accusations, Coble Lodge could not say a single word. As to Pham Dang Lam, he discreetly pushed a slip of paper to his master to ask for advice. But the U.S. envoy signed him to keep quiet.

Since slanders prove fruitless, U.S. representatives started spreading a new conspiracy:

"The Paris conference can make headway only through private and confidential contacts and not at the Conference room at Khe Sanh."

This was immediately dismissed by perspicacious newsmen who provided the following comment:

So long as the U.S. imperialists cling to their aggressive policy, what can they put forward in private contacts if not the same distortions of truth as they have been doing in conference sessions? Their true aim is rather to create an impression that they are full of good will and also to placate public opinion which is pressing for the total and unconditional withdrawal of U.S. and satellite troops from South Viet Nam."

THE uselessness of their threats having been brought home to them, the American representatives now switched over to

...TO SLANDERS

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Demonstration in Amsterdam against the U.S. war of aggression in Viet Nam

NEW U.S. PUPPET AIR RAIDS ON CAMBODIA

THE Foreign Ministry of the DRVN issued on March 21 a statement condemning the US and the Saigon puppets' new air strikes against the Kingdom of Cambodia:

"On March 11, 1969, many helicopters of the US and the Saigon puppet administration flew sorties against Sreamkheang hamlet, Kratiev village, in Kompong Cham province, killing 11 people and causing material losses to the local Khmer civilians."

"Since early March, 1969, the U.S. aggressors and their Saigon lackeys have for dozens of times violated and attacked the Cambodian territory."

"The raids again three times on the periphery of the U.S. aggression and on the hypocrisy of its excuse for violating the Cambodian territory and its penalties against the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Cambodia."

"The Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam strongly denounces such criminal acts of aggression of the United States and their lackeys against the Kingdom of Cambodia and demands their immediate cessation."

"The Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and the Vietnamese people fully support the righteous position and the very legitimate demands of the Royal Government of Cambodia as expounded in its March 19, 1969 statement."

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ON THE LARGE SOUTHERN FRONT

Rach Gia Revolutionary Power

On March 10, 1969 the Rach Gia NLF (West Nam Bo) held a political congress to appoint a provincial people's council, the local provincial people's administration and put out a program of action. In the near future the council will devote its efforts to fighting the enemy, building the liberated areas and implementing the NLF's policies.

Delegates from various districts unanimously elected an eight-member council (with one woman).

After the congress, the organizational committee called a meeting to introduce the new revolutionary body. 4,000 people from

all walks of life and nationalities gave it a rousing welcome. The liberation provincial people's council declared 'dismissal of the local provincial people's administration and put out a program of action. In the near future the council will devote its efforts to fighting the enemy, building the liberated areas and implementing the NLF's policies.

On this occasion, the council set free ten political prisoners who had mended their way.

TRI THIEN

Nearly 3,000 enemy troops put out of action in 50 days during Operation Drang Canyon west of Hue. 42 others in 4 days south of the demilitarized zone at the 17th parallel.

On March 15, the Americans had to call off Operation Drang Canyon launched on Jan. 24 in the Co Ca Va hilly area, some 40km west of Hue with a force of 7,000 men, mostly U.S. marines and paratroops. In the 50 days, they lost 2,900 men, mostly U.S. marines of the 9th Regiment whose CP had been destroyed on Feb. 17. A battalion CP, U.S. companies and 14 platoons experienced the same fate. They also had in this operation 40 helicopters downed, 12 of them in a single day on March 16, and 6 cannons and 4 heavy mortars destroyed.

Since March 20, another operation has been carried out by the Americans in the rugged mountain bordering Laos, southwest of Khe Sanh. Regional troops and guerrillas of the PLAF inflicted serious losses on them. From March 20 to March 22, 230 U.S. marines and paratroops were killed or wounded and 2 helicopters shot down.

Meanwhile, in the Hue sector the patriots on March 15 lobbed shells into Mang Co stronghold (in the citadel of the ancient imperial city) which covers a base of puppet Division One, the CP of puppet Regiment 3 at Tu Ha and an artillery position South of Phu Hiep. 5 cannons were destroyed.

In the Eastern sector of the area adjoining the 17th parallel, between the Lam Rockpile and the Lam Rockpile, an area Viet port, several PLAF attacks between March 15 and 25 cost the enemy 75 casualties (including 650 GIs), 33 military vehicles destroyed, 4 helicopters, burnt and 6 war vessels sunk.

SAIGON FRONT

Puppet Naval HQ, Cat Lai ammo depot and Nha Be oil tank farm heavily pounded. Heavy enemy losses in provinces bordering Saigon and in Ben Tre province.

On the night of March 10, the PLAF pounded the puppet naval HQ in Saigon as well as the Cat Lai ammo depots and the

Nha Be oil tank farm, about 10 km respectively east and south of the city. At Nha Be, a fire raged until morning.

In Long An province, buttressing Saigon to the south and southwest, between March 12 and March 14, the enemy lost 350 men, among them 300 GI, and eight 105-mm howitzers, 4 vehicles and a helicopter destroyed during the PLAF attacks on a base of the 3rd Brigade, U.S. 9th Infantry, the CP of the Tan An military sector and the operational CP of Binh Tinh.

Near Xuan Loc provincial capital, 50 km east-northeast of Saigon, violent attacks took place between March 14 and March 22 against units of the puppet 18th Division and puppet marines; 7 enemy companies were put out of action and 2 others decimated.

In Tay Ninh province, northwest of Saigon, 4 other puppet divisions were attacked. The most remarkable being made on an armoured compound near Can Ar where many GIs were killed or wounded and at least 21 armoured cars were destroyed. A few hours later, not far from this area, the PLAF blitzed and wiped out a U.S. Ranger company.

On March 20 and 22, the patriots put 150 puppet paratroops out of action in two engagements south west of Tay Ninh city.

In the Mekong delta, night onslaughts were carried out on March 8 and March 15 on many points in the province, with very heavy enemy losses: more than 570 men killed, wounded or captured, 7 planes and helicopters downed, 3 tankons destroyed and 3 vessels sunk or burnt. The patriots on March 15 also wiped out a puppet civil-guard company near Cao Lanh city and attacked the enemy in 4 other districts of the province of Kien Long. On the night of March 18, and struck at 7 different targets in Tay Ninh city.

On the Cao Mau peninsula, in the southernmost sector of the country, the Hue Line airfield came under violent fire on the night of March 11 and lost more than 200 casualties among them all the GIs. The PLAF pounded the base and to U.S. advisers, and 46 vehicles and 6 planes and helicopters destroyed.

MILITARY OPERATIONS

REPORTS released by Gioi Phong Press Agency this week give prominence to PLAF successful attacks in the Western Highlands, in Central Trung Bo between Da Nang and Qui Nhon, in the 2 northernmost provinces of South Viet Nam and around Saigon. Furthermore, according to Western news agencies, in the past week, on an average some U.S.-puppet-held cities, bases, airfields of positions daily came under ground or artillery attack.

WESTERN HIGHLANDS

22 targets hit on the same night including a rear base of the First Brigade, US 11th Infantry, the HQ of the 23rd Infantry Division and the CP of Regiment 42 of the puppet army and several airfields.

The Tan Phu Hoa, 7km south of Kontum city, raided on the night of March 20, was destroyed after 45 minutes of tough fighting; one artillery company, one engineering company and one company of technicians and skilled workers destroyed, 20 military vehicles and three 105-mm howitzers wrecked and a big engineering workshop, a chemical works; 4 fuel dumps and many buildings at the base burnt down.

Meanwhile, the CP of puppet regiment 42 near Tan Canh, some 40km north-northwest of Kontum also was flattened: 212 adverse casualties listed, 21 blackhouses, 12 barracks, buildings, 39 casemates, one 105-mm howitzer and 2 military vehicles destroyed. At the Kon Ho Hing gun site, about a dozen km further south-southeast, a company of artillerymen was wiped out and 3 cannons, 2 tanks and 4 tractors blasted to pieces.

In Buon Me Thuot city, the HQ of puppet division 23 was assaulted on the night of March 20 and suffered some 10 casualties, mostly officers.

Other targets shelled on the same night on the Western Highlands included the U.S. Special Forces camp at Plei Cam, another base of the U.S. 4th Infantry Division at La Son, the billeting area for U.S. officers in Pleiku city and at Tan Tao more than 20km further to the East, the Pleiku and Buon Me Thuot airfields, and an armoured compound at Ca Xung on Highway No 19 linking Pleiku to the sea (where 90 GIs were killed or wounded and 23 military vehicles including tanks and armoured cars destroyed).

A splendid feat of arms was achieved on March 21 at Cao dau, 6km northwest of Buon Me Thuot: in a 30-minute battle, a 12-man section of the PLAF decimated a puppet company (more than 100 intelligence men) in a particularly fruitful ambush.

CENTRAL TRUNG BO

General attacks in Binh Dinh province where 90 million litres of petrol were burnt at Qui Nhon. Dozens of aircraft destroyed at Chu Lai and Cam Ranh airfields.

MARCH 20 was marked by PLAF onsets against dozens of military targets in the province of Binh Dinh, such as 3 CPs of sub-sectors, the CP of puppet Regiment 42 near Phu My, the jet airfield at Co Quang, etc. In Qui Nhon city, capital of the province, the patriots set on fire a huge U.S. fuel depot. Five tanks each 30 metres in diameter and 25 metres in height and 2,000 oil barrels containing altogether 90 million litres of petrol were in

a blaze for 18 hours. This was the 2nd big fuel dump fire touched off in Qui Nhon within 8 days.

Further North, in the province of Quang Ngai, 120 GIs and 7 M-113 armoured personnel carriers were put out of action at Pho An, some 40km south-southeast of the provincial capital on March 14. A few days later, on March 18 and 19, the PLAF made night attacks on about 20 targets in the same province, including 3 district towns.

On the night of March 18, a battalion CP 8 km west of Tam Ky, capital of Quang Tin province, was written off the muster roll, while several enemy positions around Tam Phouc district town were encircled by the PLAF. At the Liet Kiem base near Que Son, a U.S. artillery company lost 100 men killed or wounded and two 105-mm howitzers destroyed. At the U.S. Chu Lai airbase, bombarded on March 20, 21 jets were destroyed or damaged. Next day, near Chu Lai, the patriots blasted out the Noi Sam base held by elements of the American Division. They blasted down the CP of the camp, the telecommunication centre, 6 cannons and 45 vehicles. A fire burnt into the following morning and hundreds of GIs were killed or wounded.

In the Da Nang sector, the enemy was hit at several places in the city itself and 4 neighbouring district towns were pounded on March 19 while an ambush on Clouds Pass between Da Nang and Hue destroyed 15 U.S. military vehicles on the same day.

In South Central Trung Bo, 15 helicopters are also reported to have been destroyed at the Dong Ho Thin airfield near Cam Ranh during a shelling on March 21.

Rest time of a PLAF unit.